Scheme for railway line in Sikkim

612. SHRI O.T. LEPCHA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether his Ministry has formulated any scheme for constructing railway line in the State of Sikkim;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the action taken, so far, by Government for implementation on the said scheme; and

(d) the time by which the same is likely to be constructed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) to (d) For providing rail connectivity to Sikkim a survey for new rail line from Sivok to Rangpo has been completed recently. As per survey report, cost of construction of this 62 km. long line has been assessed as Rs. 1329 crore. The survey report is under scrutiny in the Ministry of Railways. Further, a survey for construction of new line from Rangpo to Gangtok has been sanctioned recently.

Ramtek-Gotegaon rail line

†613. SHRI DATTA MEGHE: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the survey work regarding Ramtek-Gotegaon new rail line in Maharashtra announced in rail budget has not been started yet;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) the time by which the survey work of this rail line is likely to be completed; and

(d) by when the construction of this line would be commenced and the time by which the same would be completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) to (d) An updating survey for construction of Ramtek-Gotegaon new line was completed during 2004-05 in which the likely cost of the project was assessed as Rs. 775.29 crore at the then price level with an ROR of (-) 3%. In view of non-remunerative nature of the line, heavy throw-forward of ongoing projects and acute constraint of resources, it has not been considered feasible to take up the project.

Increasing the speed of freight trains carrying essential commodities

614. SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the working capacity of goods trains has come down resulting in increase in prices of essential commodities; and

(b) if so, whether efforts are being made to increase the speed of goods trains carrying essential commodities?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) and (b) No, Sir. However, efforts are being made to increase the speed of goods trains including those carrying essential commodities by usage of additional

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

multi-powered locomotives, removal of bottlenecks to traffic by planning for bypasses, flyovers, yard remodellings, reducing the number of permanent speed restrictions and monitoring of running of goods trains.

Contracts awarded to Coca Cola company on stations

†615. SHRI MOTILAL VORA:
SHRI SATYAVRAT CHATURVEDI:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of contracts awarded to the Coca Cola company in the country on the basis of private-public joint venture during the year 2007, station-wise;

(b) whether incidents of occupying more space than the allotted space at some place and selling articles other than authorized articles illegally by the contractors have been noticed;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) what action has been taken, so far, against the guilty?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) During 2007 M/s Hindustan Coca Cola Beverages Pvt. Ltd. has been allotted contract for setting up of five Automatic Vending Machines (AVM) at Guwahati and one at Darjeeling Station.

(b) to (d) During the time of inspections held in 2007 at 13 AVM locations at Delhi, New Delhi and Hazarat Nizamuddin Stations operated by M/s Hindustan Coca Cola Beverages Pvt. Ltd., discrepancies such as using more space than allocated to them for AVMs, selling unbranded/unpacked items and unapproved brands of packaged drinking water and non availability of essential licences *viz.* Prevention of Food Adulteration Act (PFA) licences, Medical fitness certificate to run the AVMs etc. were identified.

Actions like temporarily closing down of AVMs in 2 cases, imposing penalties in 6 cases, issue of warning in one case and counseling to rectify the discrepancies in four cases were taken.

Unutilized railway land

†616. SHRI JAI PARKASH AGGARWAL: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to give its unutilized land for its development and the implementation of new schemes on the request of concerned State Governments;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the details of such land, State-wise;

(d) whether Government propose to lease out this land to the families residing on this unutilized land; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) No, Sir. However, on the request of State Governments, railway land, if spareable, can be considered for leasing on long term basis as per rules.

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.